

School Health Issues

When must I keep my child home from school or day care?

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics children should be excluded from the childcare setting for the following:

- Illness that prevents the child from participating comfortably in program activities.
- Illness that results in a need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.
- Any of the following conditions suggesting possible severe illness: fever, lethargy, irritability, persistent crying, difficult breathing, or other manifestations of possible severe illness.
- Diarrhea or stools that contain blood or mucus.
- Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli*, including *E coli* 0157:H7, or *Shigella* infections, until diarrhea resolves and results of 2 stool cultures are negative for these organisms.
- Vomiting 2 or more times during the previous 24 hours, unless the vomiting is determined to be caused by a noncommunicable condition and the child is not in danger of dehydration.
- Mouth sores associated with drooling, unless the child's physician has determined the illness is not a communicable disease.
- Purulent conjunctivitis (defined as pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye discharge, often with matted eyelids after sleep and eye pain or redness of the eyelids or skin surrounding the eye), until examined by a physician and approved for readmission.
- Tuberculosis, until the child's physician or local health department authority states that the child is noninfectious.
- Impetigo, until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated.
- Streptococcal pharyngitis, until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated.
- Head lice (pediculosis), until after the first treatment.
- Scabies, until after treatment has been given.
- Varicella, until all lesions have dried and crusted (usually 6 days after onset of rash).
- Pertussis, until 5 days of appropriate antimicrobial therapy (which is to be given for a total of 14 days) have been completed.
- Mumps, until 9 days after onset of parotid gland swelling.
- Measles, until 4 days after onset of rash.
- Hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection, until 1 week after onset of illness or jaundice (if symptoms are mild).

Which illnesses and conditions do not necessitate exclusion from school or day care?

Most minor illnesses do not constitute a reason for excluding a child from childcare. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics children with the following conditions do not necessitate exclusion:

- Nonpurulent conjunctivitis (defined as pink conjunctiva with a clear, watery eye discharge without fever, eye pain, or eyelid redness)
- Rash without fever and without behavioral change
- Parvovirus B19 infection in an immunocompetent host

- Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection
- Chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection
- For additional information: www.health.state.ny.us/.